INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The personal interview between the undersigned and Examiner Curtis A. Alia on October 29, 2009 is acknowledged with appreciation. During the personal interview, agreement was reached that the foregoing amendments would overcome the outstanding rejection of independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 under 35 USC §103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,543 to Grover et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0179742 by Oiger et al.

In particular, Applicant stressed that each of the independent claims require the claimed active path (e.g., 34a of Fig. 1) include first and second *active* links (as opposed to reserve links that are not "active" but rather are in a "standby" condition). Further, the first and second active links each are terminated by the same router and first neighboring router, resulting in the first and second active links providing parallel active links, illustrated as links 16a and 16b in Fig. 1. Hence, the "active path" provides an aggregation of the active links 16a and 16b that connect together the routers 12a and 12b.

Hence, Agreement was reached that the claimed active path including the claimed active links ***each terminated by the router and the first neighboring router*** is distinct from a multi-hop path composed of multiple links that connect multiple routers in series (as in Oiger et al.). Further, Agreement was reached that the explicit recital of IP data packets renders Grover et al. as non-analogous art because it is directed to digital cross connect switches (DCSs), not routers.[1]

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[1]See Attached Exhibit A: Wikipedia Article entitled "Digital cross connect system", retrieved from the Internet on Sept. 21, 2009 from the website address "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_cross_connect_system"